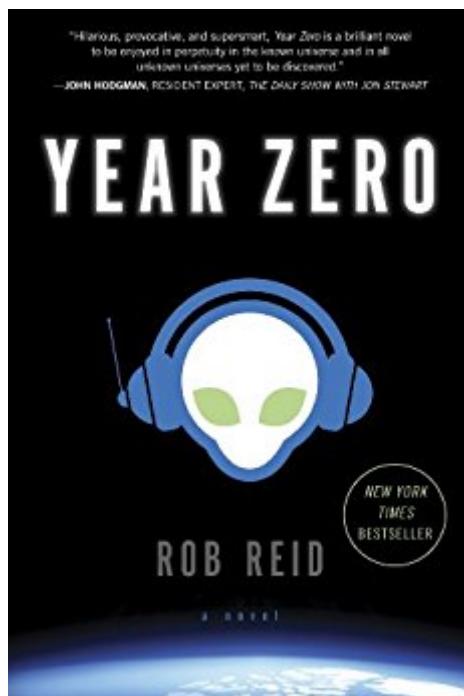


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Year Zero: A Novel



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLERLow-level entertainment lawyer Nick Carter thinks it's a prank, not an alien encounter, when a redheaded mullah and a curvaceous nun show up at his office. But Frampton and Carly are highly advanced (if bumbling) extraterrestrials. The entire cosmos, they tell him, has been hopelessly hooked on American pop songs ever since "Year Zero" (1977 to us), resulting in the biggest copyright violation since the Big Bang and bankrupting the whole universe. Nick has just been tapped to clean up this mess before things get ugly. Thankfully, this unlikely galaxy-hopping hero does know a thing or two about copyright law. Now, with Carly and Frampton as his guides, Nick has forty-eight hours to save humanity while hoping to wow the hot girl who lives down the hall from him.

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Customer Reviews

This is one of the funniest books I have ever read. The only time I could put it down was when I was wiping away tears of laughter. It's easy to tell Rob Reid did a ton of research in the areas of Sci/Fi, Physics, Law, and Music to bring them together in a unique experience. This book can easily be

completed in a day as you'll have a hard time putting it down. If you're a fan of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy here's another you'll likely enjoy.

An entertainingly humorous commentary on the state of intellectual property law in the modern era wrapped in a light hearted cheesy sci-fi wrapper. The author borrows plenty from the writing style of Sir Terry Pratchett (complete with footnotes) to wonderful effect. As outlandish as the premise sounds, it really is a fun read and the author makes it work somehow.

Rob Reid's Year Zero is a fun little irreverent story about the long-term and far-reaching implications of copyright infringement. Reid takes a savvy mid-level copyright lawyer and thrusts him into the center of a galactic spectacle, in which aliens and other higher-evolved species are stuck in their own morass of legal interpretations. The galaxy owes earth all of the money in existence. Therefore, to cancel the debt, one organization is coming to earth to help cancel that debt. The whole concept is silly, but very fun to read. Tongue is firmly in cheek throughout the story, and it's a quick read of eye-rolling inanity. There's the sexy compatriot, the carnivore parrot, celebrity impersonators and other crazy caricatures supporting the story as both allies and enemies. The whole thing ended rather abruptly for me, but it was still nicely wrapped up and complete. There is a special bonus at the end revealing a dark and sinister hand that is guiding our technological innovation through distraction. It's a great a-ha moment that suddenly makes a lot of things make sense. Very fun book.

It was a wild fling, I have to admit. It's like Hitchhiker meets Discworld, except there is no umph and no suitcase with legs. I like slapstick, and there is plenty of it, so I give him kudos for that! But it definitely needs more lawyer jokes. And more Congressman jokes- but that seems redundant. I was baffled a lot, and that usually only happens around women. I was befuddled a lot, and that usually only happens around tax time. And I was confused a lot, and that usually only happens around, well, that is normal, so I can't blame the author. But I did enjoy a lot of it. I just wanted more, kinda like compliments with women. Keep up the effort friend. We need another Discworld!

Reid rocks. This is a hilarious tour through our legal system's crazy laws regarding music copy rights. In fact the legal stuff is not the fiction of the novel....at times this is both part of the humor and the horror of the book. Truly, who knew the combined power of the music and legal industry. This book alone could be a legal reference for musicians and their fans (just kidding...but you might want to get legal advise before you sing in the shower again). The music loving aliens are just part

of the fun. Where Douglas Adams had the restaurant at the end of the galaxy, Reid has the highest court in the galaxy. Certainly, as a poor human limited to this world, there is humor in the book that is far beyond my scope. Regardless, I found myself laughing so hard my side hurt. My only disappointment is this: Surely aliens who are so attuned to artistic creation of earthly musicians would surely have gone into apoplexy from R&B, Jazz and gospel. Afros would totally cover sound canceling headgear ;-) Oh yeah, the cat is cool.

Intellectual property law, esp. the Digital Millennium Act, has never, ever been this funny. If you skipped this topic when you encounter it, this has got to be one of the most painless ways to educate yourself. You won't feel a thing. The novel, armed with one of the more controversial bits of legislation out there (many lawyers freely admit they think it goes too far), grabs the truth and stretches it to the far side of the galaxy. And yet, the plot holds water under some very kind Galactic laws. The character development is very 2 dimensional but I laughed, giggled and snorted out loud from beginning to end. The plot twists are original. Never did I imagine the common cold, alien health care and a lawyer would rescue the galaxy.

This book is a really fun read. If you are a fan of Douglas Adams (Hitchhiker's Guide) and pop culture, you will enjoy this book. You don't have to be a huge sci-fi reader to enjoy this. One of my favorite aspects of the book was the footnotes. They really added humor and some zing. Rob Reid is the founder of the company that created the Rhapsody music downloading program. His familiarity with the law behind music can be seen in the writing. He cleverly pokes fun while explaining the intricacies. The concept that Earth has the best music in the universe is such a cool idea and it is treated very well. When the aliens hear a human perform live they feel pure ecstasy. The many alien races Reid created are unique and fun. This isn't a hard science sci-fi book so don't go into reading this expecting the science to make sense. This is a sci-fi comedy. I give this novel a 4/5 and suggest it to anyone who is familiar with pop culture (especially music) and looking for a book that will provide plenty of chuckles.

This is an amazing book, you should probably buy it right now. It is probably under the sci-fi umbrella based on the general content, but I wouldn't really put it there because it's all used for satire of us Earthlings. And that's why you should buy it, it's amazingly spot-on and hilarious, and the characters are a lot of fun.

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